

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): Method for obtaining urea prills in a prilling tower (1), comprising the step of:

- making a plurality of melt urea droplets to fall from a urea melt distributing device (4) towards an urea prills collecting bottom (6) of said prilling tower;

characterized by the fact of further comprising the step of:

- cooling said collecting bottom (6) such that cooling of so obtained urea prills takes place directly on said ~~cooling~~ collecting bottom by means of the bottom itself.

2. (currently amended): Method for obtaining urea prills in a prilling tower (1), comprising the step of:

- making a plurality of melt urea droplets to fall from a urea melt distributing device (4) towards an urea prills collecting bottom (6) of said prilling tower in counter-current with an upwardly flowing air flow;

characterised by the fact of further comprising the step of:

- cooling said collecting bottom (6) such that cooling of so obtained urea prills takes place directly on said ~~cooling~~ collecting bottom by means of the bottom itself.

3. (currently amended): Prilling tower (1) for obtaining urea prills comprising a melt urea distributing device (4) and an urea prills collecting bottom (6) characterised by the fact of further comprising:

- means (15) for cooling said collecting bottom (6) such that cooling of so obtained urea prills takes place directly on said ~~cooling~~ collecting bottom by means of the bottom itself.

4. (original): Prilling tower according to claim 3, characterized by the fact that said cooling means (15) comprise at least an hollow element (16) placed above said collecting bottom (6) for the passage within said element (16) of a cooling fluid in heat exchange relationship with said collecting bottom (6).

5. (currently amended): Prilling tower (1) for obtaining urea prills comprising a tubular vertical wall (2), which defines an inner chamber (3) for cooling urea melt droplets, a urea melt distributing device (4) arranged at an upper end (3a) of said chamber (3), a urea prills collecting bottom (6) arranged at a lower end (3b) of said chamber (3) and a rotating scraper (10) on said collecting bottom (6) for extracting the urea prills from the prilling tower;

characterized by the fact of further comprising:

- means (15) for cooling said collecting bottom (6) such that cooling of so obtained urea prills takes place directly on said ~~cooling~~ collecting bottom by means of the bottom itself.

6. (original): Prilling tower according to claim 5, characterized by the fact that said cooling means (15) comprise at least an hollow element (16) placed above said collecting bottom (6) for the passage within said element (16) of a cooling fluid in heat exchange relationship with said collecting bottom (6).

7. (original): Prilling tower according to claim 5, characterized by the fact of further comprising means for cooling said rotating scraper (10).